Energy Policy Review Commission - Unofficial Minutes

Wednesday October 2, 2013

2:00pm - 5:00pm

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

2nd Floor Conference Room D

Members in Attendance:

Rob Calnan Calnan's Energy Services
Tom Regh Progressive Energy Services

Elliott Jacobson Action, Inc.
Bob Rio A.I.M

Robert Kaufmann Boston University

Sandra Merrick AGO

Others in Attendance:

Dan Burgess EEA

Rita Carvhalho Action Inc.

Sharon Ballard DPU

Jodi Hanover Rich May, P.C.

Andrew Goldberg AGO
Mark Sylvia DOER
Barbara Kates-Garnick EEA
Tina Halfpenny DOER
Jerrold Oppenheim LEAN
Jessica Bardi EEA

Documents Discussed:

- Agenda
- Draft Report

Dan Burgess called the meeting to order at 2:10pm.

Introduction

Mr. Burgess welcomed the Commission members and meeting attendees and started the introductions around the room. He noted the schedule originally stated the draft would be sent out this week, however quorum was not met at the last meeting. He said that depending on how far the Commission gets on the draft, the report could go out for public comment the following week, however the comment period would need to be cut down by a week. Mr. Rio asked if the Commission would go over the conclusion. Mr. Burgess said the Commission needs to go over metrics, review Professor Kaufmann's omitted sections, and then perhaps come to a general consensus on a conclusion. Mr. Jacobson asked what the length of the public comment period was. Undersecretary Kates-Garnick said it would typically be 2 weeks to give the public enough time. Mr. Jacobson said the Commission should work on getting to a consensus so the time left isn't spent negotiating. Undersecretary Kates-Garnick said she had a question whether others would not sign on if the AGO doesn't sign on to the report as it is important to avoid any last minute issues. Ms. Merrick said the AGO submitted redline and though they still need to go through the report again, she expects they will sign on.

Disclaimer: These minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments at the meeting, but a summary of the discussion which took place; nor does this document attest to the completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information.

Report Editing

Mr. Burgess said the goal is to edit the metrics and not go through the recommendations. Undersecretary Kates-Garnick said the hope was to adjourn by 4pm. Mr. Burgess reviewed the editing progress from the previous weeks and noted that silence means the Commission is okay with the edits.

The Commission continued to edit the draft line by line and also reviewed Professor Kaufmann's edits that were mistakenly omitted.

Undersecretary Kates-Garnick noted that Professor Kaufmann's suggestions for measuring generation are critical, and asked if anyone wanted to weigh in. Professor Kaufmann noted that to evaluate programs, it is important to understand capacity, which everyone should agree is helpful. Undersecretary Kates-Garnick asked if there was a way to simplify the metric. Professor Kaufmann said the Commission needs to measure generation, not just capacity. Undersecretary Kates-Garnick said that would be the metric. Ms. Merrick suggested putting the longer explanation in the footnotes. Mr. Regh agreed that an explanation could be included in the footnotes.

In reference to Professor Kaufmann's metric on resource diversification, Undersecretary Kates-Garnick asked what a metric for diversification would be exactly. Professor Kaufmann said that would depend on whether the price of electricity is increasing or decreasing. He said it would be resource diversification and suppression; he is proposing two metrics to get at the effects of sources of renewables. Ms. Halfpenny suggested considering the environmental impacts of resource diversification when looking at price effects.

Mr. Jacobson asked what the timeline was for the rest of the Commission meetings. Mr. Burgess said the Commission needs to meet again next week to ensure time for public comment. Mr. Rio asked if the meeting could start at 1pm to allow enough time to finish the edits. Mr. Burgess said extending the time would be okay as long as progress is made.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48pm.